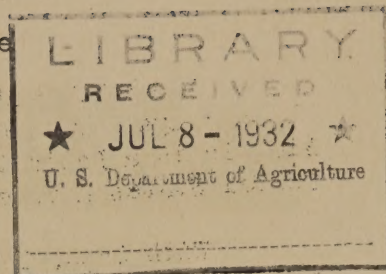


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United States Department of Agriculture
Extension Service
Office of Cooperative Extension Work



NATIONAL 4-H CLUB RADIO PROGRAM

1931-32 Music Achievement Test

"Learning to Know America's Music"

June 4, 1932

America's Favorite Composers

Descriptive notes prepared and broadcast by
R. A. Turner, field agent, Office of Cooperative Extension Work, United States Department of Agriculture, to interpret the group of musical compositions played by the United States Marine Band during the National 4-H Club Radio Program of June 4, 1932.

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How do you do, 4-H club folks and friends.

Another month has passed and once more we find the United States Marine Band ready to help us enjoy a broadcast in our National 4-H Music Achievement Test. To-day we study a few of America's Favorite Composers.

It would seem that this subject logically follows that of our study last month - America's Favorite Songs. Judging by the number of letters and telegrams which came to my desk, last month's broadcast was especially appreciated by 4-H club folks throughout the land.

John Philip Sousa

The composer whose music we hear first to-day is John Philip Sousa, affectionately known as The March King. Sousa was born in 1856, here in Washington, D. C. At the age of 24, he was appointed leader of the United States Marine Band, which position he held for 12 years. It may interest you to know that we are now broadcasting from the same auditorium in which Sousa directed the Marine Band and in which his funeral services were held only three months ago. In addition to his many marches, Sousa composed several light operas, numerous waltzes, orchestral suites, songs, and Te Deums.

DISTRIBUTION: A copy of this material has been sent to each State club leader.

One of Sousa's marches, Semper Fidelis, is dedicated to the band which plays for us during these National 4-H Club Radio Programs. Semper Fidelis is a Latin term meaning Always Faithful and is the motto of the United States Marine Corps.

With Capt. Taylor Branson conducting, the United States Marine Band opens our musical period to-day with Semper Fidelis, by Sousa.

Charles Wakefield Cadman

Charles Wakefield Cadman is the next composer on our list to-day. Cadman was born in 1881 in Johnstown, Pa. He spent a considerable amount of time in making original investigations of Indian music, and utilized Indian themes in his compositions. Possibly his best-known opera is Land of the Misty Water. Probably he is best known as the composer of the song, From the Land of the Sky-Blue Water.

His composition, At Dawning is a love song and is, perhaps, one of America's favorite songs of this type.

At Dawning, by Cadman, is played for us now by the United States Marine Band, Capt. Taylor Branson conducting.

Victor Herbert

Our next selection is March of the Toys, by Victor Herbert. Although Herbert was born in Ireland, he spent most of his life in America and is usually considered an American composer. He played with the Metropolitan Orchestra in New York, was leader of the famous 22d Regiment Band, conducted the Pittsburgh Orchestra, and in 1904 founded the Victor Herbert Orchestra in New York. From then until his recent death he gave much of his time to composition.

We are going to hear the music from one of the best known of his 35 light operas, Babes in Toyland. Other operas are The Red Mill, It Happened in Nordland, The Fortune Teller, and Babette.

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You will remember that/Babes in Toyland, the characters are taken from Mother Goose Rhymes. There are Boy Blue, Bobby Shaftoe, Bo-Peep, and others, not to mention The Master Toymaker and Uncle Barnaby.

Under the baton of Capt. Taylor Branson, the United States Marine Band plays March of the Toys, from Babes in Toyland, by Herbert.

Reginald De Koven

Who of us has not been thrilled by the story of Robin Hood? Many of you have read the book, seen the movie, heard the music or possibly the opera itself, not to mention having participated in amateur dramatizations of the story.

You will recall the characters of Allan-a-Dale, Little John, Will Scarlet, Friar Tuck, and Maid Marian as well as Robin Hood himself. The scene was laid in Sherwood Forest in England in the time of Richard the First.

The author is Reginald De Koven, a native of Middletown, Conn., who has written about 20 light operas, 2 grand operas, and more than 400 songs.

Perhaps his best-known song is Oh Promise Me. In the opera this song is sung by Allan-a-Dale, one of the outlaws.

The United States Marine Band, Capt. Taylor Branson conducting, plays for us now, Oh Promise Me, from Robin Hood, by De Koven.

Ethelbert Nevin

The next American composer on our program to-day is Ethelbert Nevin, who was a Pennsylvanian. In his many works are to be found compositions for voice as well as for piano. Perhaps his best-known song is The Rosary.

Narcissus, his most popular composition for piano, is contained in his collection called Water Scenes, which work probably has made Nevin most widely known.

Narcissus is an old Greek myth told in music. It is the story of a boy who leaned over the quiet water in a pool where he gazed and smiled and nodded at his own image until, as the story goes, he was turned into a flower that nods and sways at the water's edge. Listen carefully as the music tells us this story; first of the smiling, nodding boy, then queer changing chords, and then of the swaying flower.

The United States Marine Band, under the leadership of Capt. Taylor Branson, now plays a bit of Greek mythology set to music and called Narcissus, by Ethelbert Nevin.

Before we hear our next selection, may I tell you about the musical period in our next month's National 4-H Club Radio Program at this same hour on Saturday, July 2. That period will be given over to a music identification test covering our study thus far this year in Learning to Know America's Music.

The United States Marine Band will play a selected list of 12 compositions chosen from the numbers used in this year's National 4-H Music Achievement Test. All 4-H club members and any others listening to the program will be urged to identify those compositions as they are played, by writing down the name of the composition and the name of the composer. The correct list will be announced at the close of the broadcast.

Possibly your local 4-H club might meet at that time and make the identification test a part of your program. Many counties will use that broadcast as the basis of a county music identification test. Your identification records will not be sent to the United States Department of Agriculture, although we would be interested to hear how your club or your county carried out its plan, if you desire to write to us.

Next month's identification test will not complete our study of Learning to Know America's Music, since in August we will consider Early American Music, in September, Modern American Music, and in October, American Operas.

Henry Kimball Hadley

A rousing climax is provided for our musical period to-day in Song of the Marching Men, by Henry Kimball Hadley.

Hadley was born in 1871 in Somerville, Mass. He has attained considerable prominence as an American composer. His works represent nearly every form of musical composition - short and long - and include operas, symphonies, overtures, choruses, cantatas, ballads, and over 100 songs. Since 1920 Hadley has been associate conductor of the Philharmonic Society in New York. His composition, Song of the Marching Men, is taken from the ode entitled The New Earth.

The United States Marine Band, Capt. Taylor Branson conducting, brings to a close our study of America's Favorite Composers, by playing Song of the Marching Men, by Hadley.